

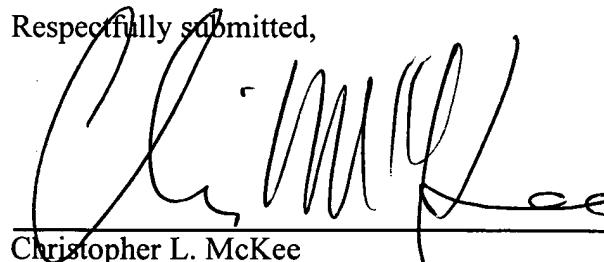
**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 3-25 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2, which is now cancelled. Applicant maintains that the subject matter of claims 1-16 is allowable even without this amendment; the amendment is made, without prejudice or disclaimer, in order to expeditiously advance the application to allowance. In a telephone interview conducted on March 9, 2006 with the undersigned, Examiner Ferris agreed that such an incorporation of the subject matter of claim 2 into claim 1 would place claims 1-16 in condition for allowance. Claims 17-25 have previously been allowed.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better form for allowance, he is respectfully urged to telephone applicant's undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

  
Christopher L. McKee  
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